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## INTER-ISLAND RATES AND POLICIES BRING OUT HOT REPLIES AT HEARING

### Three Hour Session of Utilities Board Replete With Matters Interesting Shippers

With a session lasting yesterday afternoon from 2 o'clock until 5 o'clock and which covered the examination of three witnesses from Maui and the vice-president of the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company, as well as the citation of figures on earnings and disbursements of the steamship Claudine, and the reading of the hot complaint from the Maui Chamber of Commerce which was yesterday printed in the Star-Bulletin, the public utilities commission has inaugurated what promises to be one of the most interesting and vital investigations in its history.

Much is Accomplished. Although the three-hour meeting contained much of routine questioning necessary to such a session there was brought out much evidence in that time that will undoubtedly have a distinct bearing on later portions of the hearing.

Chairman Charles R. Forbes stated today that he feels a great deal was accomplished in the beginning session—a good start for the three hours, he says.

Frequent flashes of wit, verbal shrapnel that burst here and there, and plain out-and-out answers given fearlessly by both sides put a kick into the hearing that kept those present from nodding, and drowned out the drone of the electric fan that sought to cool the humid air.

Though William Walsh, the first witness, apparently in a position where he preferred to say nothing as a witness, brought forth little of interest, his brother, John J. Walsh, and H. B. Penhallow who followed him spoke out without hesitancy.

Meanwhile Harold W. Rice sitting back awaiting his turn fairly squirmed in his chair in his anxiety to tell what he knew, often answering a question put to a witness before the man in the chair had time to get it from his lips. Rice was the very embodiment of a spirit of happy aggressiveness, and it is safe to say his testimony next Tuesday morning will be of high interest.

Discrimination is Intimated. One of the tense moments in the session was when John J. Walsh on the witness stand intimated that the Inter-Island Company discriminates against the Kahului Store, of which he is manager. He related how Capt. Bennett of the Claudine had declared he "wouldn't take a damned bit of freight from Kahului Store for other ports." Walsh quoted the expletive several times to make himself clear.

Chairman Forbes asked several questions in regard to the incident, and Attorney L. J. Warren for the Inter-Island broke in:

"There was no good reason for his not taking your freight, you think?"

"There was not. He took freight from other stores there."

"You mean that it looked like 'pure cussedness' on the part of the captain?"

"You might call it that," replied Walsh. "I mean the company would and did back him up in his attitude. I didn't make a complaint on the incident because it would have made trouble for him—the captain. There were other men than the captain back of it."

Tires of Complaining. Walsh said he has made so many complaints to the Inter-Island for damaged goods, especially Japanese tubs, that he has grown discouraged, having never received any satisfaction from the company. That is partly the reason, he said, why he does not intend to file a written complaint with the public utilities commission. He feels further that enough complaints have been filed already for the present investigation, and that multiplicity will not help any.

Norman E. Gedge pointed out that none of the steamship companies will accept Japanese soy tubs and similar

freight except at the risk of the owner.

"That's no reason why the claim can't be collected," declared Walsh.

"The Inter-Island pays claims for damages that come through negligence," interposed Attorney Warren.

"And we can't afford to put a man on every tub during a shipment," flashed the Kahului store manager.

Walsh declared that the boats have time to pick up freight at Kahului practically every trip. They would leave Lahaina when they are through there, he said. He admitted, however, on questioning that he guessed the Kahului railway stevedores object to working before 6 o'clock in the morning. He said the Inter-Island Company has no competition from other boats.

Much Freight Damaged. Walsh said that cases of damage done to his goods had been legion. They included rice soaked with oil, torn bags, lost bags, and other things that he could not recall without looking up the books.

"I do not believe the increase on general merchandise is necessary," said Walsh. "I am dissatisfied with the rates but I shall not make formal complaint save as a member of the Chamber of Commerce."

H. B. Penhallow said on the witness stand just previous to Walsh that he believes the charge for cattle at the Kahului railway wharf is pretty high considering the time it takes to get the cattle loaded and the ease with which it can be done.

"But I believe the harbor board has the say as to that," he added, looking straight at Chairman Forbes.

"Not the harbor board but the public utilities commission," said Forbes reddening at the sudden turn, and joined with the crowd in the laugh.

Will File Other Complaint.

Penhallow said that as manager of the Walluku Sugar Company he will file a formal complaint with the commission, sending it down by the next mail. He mentioned during the meeting that confusion often arises at Lahaina where the Claudine and Mauna Kea sometimes arrive simultaneously without anyone to direct which boats shall come to the different slips at the shore.

"I think this is only an oversight," he added, "but I wanted to speak of it here while I had a chance." He said that he was little interested in the cattle rates, having no personal experience with the shipment of them.

"Our chief complaint is that with the rise in rates there is no promise of better service, a thing one always expects at such a time."

He said on question by Warren that he means by better service better handling of freight and passengers, as well as a number of things that he could not state without going into the subject more fully.

Mail Contract Enters.

A considerable part of the questioning at the meeting hinged about the fact that the Inter-Island boat must reach Hana at a certain hour in order to meet the mail contract with the government, thus being unable to wait for freight at other ports.

A sampan built some time ago by the Kahului railway people also came in for considerable discussion owing to the claim that it competes in a small manner with the bigger steamship company.

J. L. McLean, vice-president of the Inter-Island, was the last man sworn at yesterday's meeting.

Consider Rates Equitable. McLean declared that he considered the rates for cattle more equitable as a whole than before, owing to the fact that shippers pay less on the dressed-weight scale for cattle which are fairly light weight, rather than letting them go in under the "so-much-a-head" charge. In many cases the rates are lowered, he said.

"We have paid few losses," said McLean. "We carry livestock at the risk of the owner, but we do our best to see that they are carefully cared for. In cases of negligence of our employees we are always willing to allow damages."

"At times we have lost cattle in the middle of the channel by their throwing themselves over the stanchions. I have seen it happen, myself, or I wouldn't have believed it. Sometimes too, wild steers will fight in the trip out to the boat, swamping water and drowning."

Takes Shipper's Word.

"Not more than a month ago we paid a claim for damages when the owner said the fault was with our men. We took his word that time instead of one of our captains. In that instance circumstances seemed to show the shipper was correct. Sometimes cattle are worn out by the long drive from the ranges and get down on the trip across the channel."

Then the vice-president took up the question of the mail contract, of which so much mention had been made.

"I don't think," he said, "that it would help any to get into Kahului any earlier than we now do. We have tried it a few times and the stevedores there object to working at that time."

"We took up the question with the postoffice department," he continued, "to see if we could call later at Hana, making it 5 o'clock instead of 3 o'clock. Then Hans and Kipahulu objected to our plan, and facing this objection, the postoffice people refused to send in our request to Waialeale. The mail contract expires in June, 1918."

Objection is Overruled. Here Attorney Clarence Olson, representing A. W. Carter and Harold Rice, interposed to ask a question, but Attorney Warren objected.

"I don't think it is proper to ask these questions when the other testimony is not in," said he. "There is no use going at this thing piecemeal. We'll make our defense when the time comes."

Chairman Forbes granted Mr. Olson right to ask the question, but said the

## CLASS OF RED CROSS NURSES AWAIT GRADES

The big class of women who finished their examination in Red Cross work last Wednesday at Schofield and thus brought to a close a three months' "preparedness" school, are now waiting for the return of their grades from the National Red Cross Association. The women in the class are as follows:

Mrs. A. McIntyre, Mrs. C. R. Lloyd, Mrs. F. F. Black, Mrs. H. D. Blasland, Mrs. L. B. Wilson, Mrs. J. D. Reardon, Miss Hazel Ruth Haynes, Mrs. Seth Scofield, Mrs. T. H. Lowe, Mrs. Conrad Babcock, Mrs. Jerome Pillow, Mrs. Douglas McCaskey, Miss H. C. Palmer, Mrs. Charles Jewell, Mrs. J. N. Hauser, Mrs. Ernest G. Cullum, Mrs. La Vergne L. Gregg, Mrs. Robert P. Harbold, Mrs. Karl Truesdell, Mrs. Erlenkotter, Mrs. J. B. W. Corey, Mrs. H. C. Vanderveer, Mrs. Hugh D. Wise, Mrs. George E. Kumpe, Miss Lila Wilson, Mrs. F. Halstead, Mrs. P. H. McCook, Mrs. B. Snead, Mrs. J. F. Janda, Mrs. C. H. Rice, Mrs. R. Sears, Miss E. Hodges, Mrs. W. E. Eridgen, Miss C. McMahon, Mrs. W. S. Browning and Mrs. J. P. Barney.

Mrs. W. C. Bonner, Mrs. William Lewis and Mrs. M. V. N. Solomon.

Mrs. Prioleau, Mrs. Elijah Reynolds, Mrs. C. H. Barbour, Mrs. H. K. Balaentine, Mrs. William Frederick, Mrs. Leslie King, Mrs. G. G. Overby, Mrs. E. M. Proctor, Mrs. J. B. Kemp, Mrs. C. W. Owens, Mrs. A. Holden, Mrs. C. M. Robertson and Mrs. Samuel C. Davis.

PAPERS IN GERMAN TONGUE PAYS GERMANY

BERNE, Switzerland.—With French and English name two new newspapers in Switzerland printed in the German language have been started. These organs of publicity assail Germany and Austria-Hungary more bitterly than the French press of the western Swiss cantons.

witness need not answer it unless he saw it.

"How do you justify the flat rate of one cent a pound from all ports," he asked, "when Kahului is so easy to load from and can in no wise compare with ports on Hawaii where cattle must be gummed out to the boats?"

"That goes to the meat of our presentation," punned Warren, "and we insist on our stand."

The meeting then adjourned until Tuesday at 10 o'clock. At this time A. W. Carter, shipper representing the Parker ranch interests, will be called to voice his complaints.

### HIDE FULL OF DEATH, COW ROAMS SIERRAS

EL CAPITAN CAMP, YOSEMITE, Cal.—"Clara," a red Durham cow, is rambling about Ackerson Meadows, in the high Sierras, just outside Yosemite National Park, with seven sticks of dynamite reposing in her stomach, according to F. W. Wenz of Crocker,

who arrived at El Capitan Camp recently. "Clara" strayed from her herd mates yesterday, and on tracking her it was ascertained that she had unearthed a cache of explosives and devoured seven portions of a package of a dozen dynamite sticks.

Wenz advises tourists not to attempt to milk "Clara." A reward has been offered to any one who will

safely explode her.

### BRITISH CAPTURE CARGO OF IRON ORE

Stockholm, Sweden.—The capture of the German steamer Desterro, of 2534 tons gross, with a cargo of iron ore, off Hernösand, Sweden, on the gulf of Bothnia, is officially announced. She was taken into Raumo, Finland.

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